

QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS ON THE DAY

(but not taken up)

Recruitment of the posts of Educational Officers

211. Sri C. N. PATIL (Lingasugur).—

Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of candidates selected by the Public Service Commission in December 1971 for the post of District Educational Officer (being re-designated as Educational Officers) :

(b) whether appointment orders in respect of these candidates have been issued ;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same ?

Sri A. R. BADARINARAYANA (Minister for Education).—

(a) Seven.

(b) No.

(c) The list of selected candidates prepared by the Public Service Commission is not in accordance with the Recruitment Rules.

2-00 P.M.

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance(i) re : *Mechanisation of Kemmanragundi Mines.*

Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANV/AR (Bhadravati).—I call the attention of the Minister for Industries to the mechanisation of Kemmangundi Mines.

Sri S. M. KRISHNA (Minister for Industries).—I State as follows :

The amount spent on the mechanisation of the Kemmangundi Mines including purchase of machinery and equipment is Rs. 24.70 lakhs. The Kemmangundi mines is not proposed to be closed down and therefore the question of rehabilitation of the employees in the mines does not arise.

(SRI S. M. KRISHNA)

The production of Kemmangundi Iron Ore is about 1.5 lakhs tonnes per annum. The production cost has increased year by year as could be seen from the following figures :—

Year	Production	Cost/tonne
	Tonnes	Rs.
1968-69	1,25,880	36.74
1969-70	1,53,840	43.38
1970-71	1,55,170	54.16 (Cost worked out
1971-72	1,71,000	51.36 for 9 months only)

Consequent upon starting of two new Electric Pig Iron Furnaces the consumption of Iron Ore has increased from 1.5 lakh tonnes to 4 lakhs tonnes per annum. Since heavy investment is involved for meeting the entire requirement of Iron Ore from Kemmangundi mines and also owing to limited facilities of transport, Ropeways, etc., purchase of Iron Ore was resorted to from private source to meet a portion of the requirements of Mysore Iron and Steel Ltd., after starting new EPFs. The cost per tonne of purchase ore is Rs. 33.70 F. O.R. Bhadravathi.

M/s National Mineral Development Corporation, a Government of India Concern, have been entrusted with the work of preparing a Project Report for mechanisation of Kemmangundi Mines to meet the entire demand of the Iron Ore. Their final and II phase report has been received recently and it is under examination.

According to the first report the mechanisation of mines has to be taken up in two stages. In the first stage it is proposed to produce 1.5 lakhs tonnes finished ore by a capital outlay of Rs. 40.94 lakhs.

It is only on the basis of the advice of M/s National Mineral Development Corporation, partial mechanisation of mines has been resorted to by purchase of machinery and equipments worth Rs. 24.70 lakhs as detailed below :—

		Rs. in lakhs
1. Power Shovel	One	8.50
2. Dumpers	Four	10.50
3. Wagon Drills	Two	1.10
4. Portable Compressors	Two	1.10
5. Bull Dozer	One	3.50
Total		24.70

The Board of Directors of Mysore Iron and Steel Ltd., have reviewed the increasing cost of Iron Ore at Kemmangundi mines and they have resolved at the 71st meeting on 17-4-1972 to constitute a sub-committee to examine in greater detail the mining operation in Kemmangundi Mines and to report to Board about the feasibility of continuing mining operations or otherwise and the report of the Sub-committee is awaited by Government.

Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANWAR.—There are two conflicting statements. The National Mineral Development Corporation has given a feasibility report to mechanise these mines and another committee viz. The Board of Directors of MISL has been appointed to go into the feasibility or otherwise of continuing the mining operations. Am I to presume that the plan is to close down the mines once and for all?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—This aspect of the question will also be gone into by the committee that has been appointed by the Board of Directors of MISL.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—When already the N. M. D. C. has gone into this matter and found the scheme feasible, where was the necessity for the Board of Trustees of MISL to constitute another committee?

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—On the basis of certain recommendations of the N.M.D.C., certain investments were made and certain mechanisation processes were resorted to. But unfortunately even after the mechanisation, the mining operations became costlier. In view of the new development, the Board of Directors took cognisance of that fact and have appointed a committee which will go into the whole question and make certain recommendations.

Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANWAR.—In 1969-70 the production was 1.5 lakh tons. Again after mechanisation the production remains at the same level. So, in spite of using the machinery, the working of the mines has not improved. It is on account of low production and mismanagement. So, the remedy is to change the management.

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—That is exactly what I have been trying to make out. In spite of mechanisation we have not been able to make the mining operations economical. That is why the committee is going into this aspect.

Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANWAR.—You can get 15,000 tons every day if it is efficiently managed. Your management is not efficient; the workers are all right. My fear is that if the mine is closed down, 1500 workers will be thrown out on the streets. Let the Management be changed and taken over by some other efficient man. The present man has spoiled the whole show and you have given him promotion and appointed him as the General Manager.

Sri S. M. KRISHNA.—The hon. Member's allegation that there has been some mismanagement will also be gone into by the expert committee.